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original carbonic acid, which is thus plentifully thrown out upon the air, which has at the same time been robbed of a share of oxygen to effect the change. Besides the presence of carbonic acid, flowering plants yield exhalations of many essential oils, and natural odors of various sorts, all of which, in close situations, are liable to cause injury by long breathing, though some may be very pleasant when moderately employed. For these reasons it is understood at present that though plants in *leaf only* may be tolerated in sleeping rooms, yet they had better not be kept there, and no others should be at any time.—C. M. TRACY.

G. W. S., Grand Rapids, Mich.—The only work on American Spiders, is a series of illustrated papers, by N. M. Hentz, in the *Journal* (Vols. 1-6) and *Proceedings* (Vol. 11) of the Boston Society of Natural History. The best general works are Blackwall's *Spiders of Great Britain*, 4to, published by the Ray Society, London, and *Histoire Naturelle des Araignées*, par E. Simon. 8vo, with 207 figures. Paris, Roret, 1864.

J. W. J., Middleboro, Mass.—Your specimen is the *Botryllus Schlosseri*, a compound tunicate mollusk. It will be described and figured in the new edition of Gould's *Invertebrates of Massachusetts*.

W. H. D., Troy, N. Y.—Your specimen is the Hair-worm (*Gordius*). See *NATURALIST*, Vol. I, p. 556.

E. L. G., Decatur, Ill.—See Darby's *Botany of the Southern States*.

G. W. L., Long Point, Texas.—“I saw a hawk catch an owl the other day. Is it a common thing for hawks to catch owls?” We have not heard of such an instance before. Have any of our readers?

L. B. C., Richmond, Ind.—“I enclose you a strange piece of fungus found here. The piece is oval, and about four inches across the face. When first taken, of a snow whiteness, except at the point of each stalk, where there is a small pink speck. These pink specks have increased more than four times their original size since first taken (eight days). They have also grown darker red all the time. It was found growing point downwards, in the upper part of a cavity in a beach tree, still growing, about four feet from the ground.”—It is a young specimen of the *Hydnum erinaceum*.—J. L. R.

W. C. J., Newburyport, Mass.—The specimen found in the stomach of the cod was a Sea-cucumber (*Pentacta frondosa*), which is abundant in ten fathoms, hard bottom, along our whole New England coast.

C. W., Weathersfield, Conn.—The minute insect infesting the pinks in your house, and which spins a thread like a spider, is a Mite (*Acarus*). The little pink mite does considerable damage to roses, spinning webs, and eating holes in the leaves. The best remedy is to apply powdered sulphur with a pair of bellows, for which contrivance several patents have been taken out.

J. A. H. B., Falkirk, N. B.—The works of Professor Baird comprise all you want. Apply to the Smithsonian Institution for “A List of the Birds of North America.”

W. C. F., Eastham, Mass.—The bird is the Pine Creeping Warbler, *Dendroica pinæ*.

W. P. R., Richmond, Va.—The sphinx, which was broken in pieces, is the *Phthoropelus vitis* of Harris. We would like specimens for our museum.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

List of the Shell-bearing Mollusca of Michigan, especially of Kent and adjoining Counties. By A. O. Currier. Published by the Kent Scientific Institute, Grand Rapids, Mich. 1868. 8vo, pp. 12.

American Bee Journal. January, 1869. Washington, D. C.

Cosmos. November 21; December 12. Paris.

Descriptions of twelve new species of Unionida from South America. Notes on some members of the Feldspar Family [with twelve other short articles extracted from the *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia*]. Philadelphia, 1868. 8vo, pp. 32.

Future of Vineland. By Joseph Treat. 12mo, pp. 21. Price 15 cents.

Insect Extinguisher. By Joseph Treat. Vineland, N. J. 12mo, pp. 15. Price 12 cts.

Field. November 28, December 5. London.

Land and Water. November 7, 14, 21, 1868. London.

Chemical News. December, 1868. New York.

The Illustrated Annual Register of Rural Affairs for 1869, with one hundred and thirty Engravings. Albany, N. Y. Luther Tucker & Son. Price 30 cents.

Scientific Opinion. November, 1868. London.

Entomologist's Monthly Magazine. May-November, 1868.

Notes on the Later Extinct Floras of North America, with Descriptions of some New Species of Fossil Plants from the Cretaceous and Tertiary Strata. By J. S. Newberry. New York. 8vo, pp. 76.